

WOOL GROWERS CRY FOR HIGHER DUTIES.

Impassioned Appeals Made to the Ways and Means Committee.

One Speaker Denounces the Free Clause in the Wilson Bill as a Crime.

"Ad Valorem System," He Adds, "Is the Most Damnable Ever Proposed by Rascals."

M'MILLIN AND DINGLEY IN A TILT.

Democratic Member Was Bringing Out Some Damaging Admissions by a Witness When the Chairman Testily Interfered.

Washington, Jan. 6.—The wool growers and people who manufacture woollens came down upon the Committee on Ways and



Means today with their demands and for the five hours the committee was in session laid before the members assembled various proposals for the enrichment of the men who keep. There were many clashes and differences of opinion, but through it all growers and workmen and manufacturers stood together in determined fashion, for while the man who makes up the wool looks wool would like free wool, he is willing to concede a reasonable amount of tariff if he, too, could be protected by a tariff on the manufactured article.

Dingley manifested more strongly to-day than at any time heretofore a disposition to cut off those appearing before the committee whose views were not in exact accord with his own. Representative McMillin has suffered particularly from this, and to-day there was a swift tilt between these two men. McMillin, unlike General Wheeler, does not yield a weak submission to the Republican majority present in the committee, but goes there to make valiant battle for Democratic principles. He realizes the injustice that must arise from giving representation to a number of capitalists and others directly and financially interested in particular schedules, armed with information to back up their statements and give them every appearance of honesty and sincerity, while the vast body of people who must pay the grants made them by the committee can have no representation of any sort.

McMillin, however, has been standing guard before the interests of the people at these hearings, and his zeal to-day called for the crusty wrath of Dingley. A representative American wool grower was giving testimony, and had given a glowing picture of the great benefits to be derived from a tariff that would give the sheep raiser 15 cents a pound for wool at the sheep corral.

"How many sheep are there in a herd on your ranch?" asked McMillin.

"We formerly ran 2,500 to 3,000 to a herd, but since then we cut down expenses, and now our herds contain about 5,000 sheep."

"How many men look after such herds?"

"When our herds numbered about 3,000 each we had a man and a boy and a few dogs to look after them. A 5,000 sheep herd will require a herder and two boys and the dog."

"What did you pay the herder?" asked McMillin.

"Eighteen dollars a month and furnished his rations," was the answer.

It was at this point that Dingley broke in. Without hint of excuse to McMillin, he said: "Mr. Wilson Brown will now be heard by the committee on the subject of soils and waste."

"I am not through with this gentleman," said Mr. McMillin, rather irritated, "and there is much more I would like to ask him."

"The time of the committee is limited," murmured Dingley, and subsided into the recesses of the big leather chair, that

almost swallowed him up. His purpose was evident, however. He did not wish the statements McMillin was drawing out to go on record as a part of the hearings.

First Witness of the Day.

John G. Clark, of the Washington County Wool Growers' Association, of Pennsylvania, was the first to testify this morning. According to the picture drawn by him general prostration has settled upon the wool growers of this country, and nothing but an invigorant in the shape of a good tariff on wool can put life into the business of raising sheep for the fleece.

He was simply a certain raiser, however, and the show began with the appearance of Judge William Lawrence, of the National Wool Growers' Association. He characterized the free wool clause of the Wilson bill as a crime and in arguing for specific duties vehemently declared that "the ad valorem system was the most damnable ever proposed by rascals."

Judge Lawrence went lengthily into the history of wool growing under every tariff this country has ever had. His one significant statement was that the Wilson bill had stopped one third of the wool growing business and had closed down one-half of the mills of the country.

Association's Extreme Schedule.

The schedule asked by the Wool Growers' Association was 12 cents a pound on all merino wools, 24 cents on washed, and 30 cents on scouring Australian, unwashed wools to be considered as washed. This schedule was not generally liked, and after a cursory inspection, it looked to them at attendance upon the hearing as though the association has asked more than it expected to get. A view to giving the committee a chance for a cut-down.

Theodore Justice, formerly Judge Lawrence, he pointed out had proved amply sufficient. That rate was 11 cents a pound on raw wool. This had to be considered in connection with the compensatory rate on woollens as the two together in their operation



result of the action, as there are the largest holders of the stock.

So far as the actual conditions of the case are concerned the Delaware and Hudson is now working its collieries to the fullest extent. It has a small coal reserve, and it is understood that within thirty years the coal mines will become exhausted. Owing to the great cost the company cannot work its mines at any great depth with much profit.

The earnings of the railroad have fallen off in the same proportion as the earnings of the coal department have been decreased. The report for the year ending December 31, 1916, shows a decrease in gross earnings of \$364,240 and a decrease in net earnings of \$236,000. The year previous there was a surplus of \$65,270, whereas last year there was a deficit of \$183,241. Passengers carried last year were 32,005,387, against 40,008,719 the year previous.

The Market Stronger.

The market displayed great strength and a healthful tone to-day, additional favorable railroad reports of earnings confirming the impression that business has taken the corner. The termination of the bank troubles in the West and the growing belief that the Cameron Cuban resolution will aid of passage created a better speculative feeling.

Private advices from Washington are to the effect that the Republican leadership both houses of Congress have determined that no action should be taken in the Cuban question in this session, lest the incoming President, in his first act, should be a judgment of the situation. As it has now become a matter of partisan politics, prospects of the Cameron resolution appear dim.

The improvement in prices for the day were fractional, but the inherent strength of the market, and the buying in the failure of the sensational break in Delaware and Hudson to prevent the list from closing generally higher than last night. The character of the day's trading was improving each day and more outside interest is reported by commission houses.

Following are the sales of stocks and range of prices:

Sales.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
23801 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
23802 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
23803 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
23804 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
23805 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
23806 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
23807 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
23808 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
23809 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
23810 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
23811 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
23812 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
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23816 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
23817 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
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23822 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
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23842 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
23843 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
23844 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
23845 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
23846 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
23847 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
23848 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
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23850 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
23851 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
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23870 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
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23872 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
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23874 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
23875 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2
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23958 Am Sug Ref.	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	1